

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR OF PUBLICATION

# TOC H JOURNAL

December  
1955

NEWS • VIEWS • IDEAS



Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view, and are not necessarily those of the Movement

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Together with a Supplement

## HAPPY RETURNS

A tribute mainly in pictures to 'Tubby' the Founder Padre,  
on his seventieth birthday.

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## 'ALL ABOUT IT'

MANY Toc H Branches make a regular practice of discussing the contents of the JOURNAL and a letter resulting from one such meeting is printed in this month's *Open Hustings*. The writer's Branch wonders whether the JOURNAL shirks discussion of today's outstanding social, political and religious problems and suggests publication of "some objective articles giving the *pros* and *cons* of the different questions involved".

In maintaining that everything connected with life itself is of interest to some Toc H members, the JOURNAL has never accepted any limitation in the range of articles printed in these pages. A glance through recent issues will show a variety of writings on present-day problems while included in this present number are articles on World Government and the Death Penalty—the latter itself a chapter from Everyman's story.

There is, of course, a quantitative limitation to be observed if the JOURNAL is to secure the attention of the wide cross-section who together form its readers. With so many varied ingredients, the space available each month rarely allows articles to do much more than provide an outline to particular problems. In this respect *New Forum*, the Toc H quarterly, has a distinct advantage in being able to devote considerably more space to discussion.

Towering high beyond the necessarily limited range of our own periodicals stand the national newspapers, from which far too many people are content to absorb their views on current matters. For the reader seeking a balanced view it would seem essential for him to have access to more than one daily, and then to read 'between the lines'. Thoughtful readers are better catered for by the literary weeklies, notably the *New Statesman*, *Spectator*, and *Truth*, publishing important and critical articles on today's concerns, while the palm for sheer value goes to *The Listener*, for a once-a-week budget of infinite variety. Meanwhile, within our limits we try to ensure that the JOURNAL lives up to the monthly reiterated claim to provide the Family with 'News, Views and Ideas'.

# WORLD GOVERNMENT

By HENRY USBORNE, M.P.

**I**N A WORLD which contains the atom and hydrogen bombs war must be abolished or civilisation will perish. The supreme question in every mind is this: How can it be? The world awaits the answer.

Our problem, fortunately, is *not* intractable. We know in principle how war is abolished. It is abolished by merging several states into one. The Scots and English, for instance, used to fight bitterly against one another. Then, in 1707, came the Act of Union. Since that date the two nations, which had previously appeared irreconcilable, have lived at peace.

The U.S.A. is another example of the union of independent, and at one time hostile, states. Switzerland, Australia and Canada are all successful federations. Many other such cases where political union has eliminated inter-state conflicts can be traced in history. On the other hand, not one major alliance of sovereign nations has ever survived more than a decade or two before it has collapsed in armed strife.

## *Nature of Peace*

Evidently something fundamental, important and formidable is being constantly evaded in current discussions about peace. It is the sovereign independence of states. That is the root of the problem, and until we tackle it we can never hope to make any real progress towards world peace. We shall go on endlessly negotiating pacts and treaties, while all the time the unresolved problem inexorably compels us to spend our substance on preparations for war. This is what has been happening through the whole of this century. It is happening now. The truth is that peace and national sovereignty are incompatibles.

## *Basis of War*

It is true that peace inside a state can be disturbed. There may be civil war. It is also true that between sovereign states there occur periods of agreement and comparative tranquillity. But this does not affect the argument. Civil war is not inherent in the state: but war is inherent in inter-state relations if those relations are based on national sovereignty.

This is because a sovereign-state, by its very nature, has to be constantly prepared for war. But say what it will, its intentions are inevitably suspect. Its neighbours in turn build up their armaments. In the end one of the nations gets too strong, or another grows too fearful; the inevitable accident happens, and the shooting starts.

### *Maintaining Law and Order*

The argument for merging separate states into one federation in order to create the conditions of peace can also be stated in another way. Within any community peace—and security for its citizens—is obtained by the maintenance of law and order by government. This requires the creation of three interdependent institutions.

Firstly, the legislature, which, being elected by or responsible to the peoples, makes their laws. Secondly, the judiciary, the independent and impartial instrument for interpreting the law and applying its sanctions. Thirdly, the police, who enforce the laws of the legislature in the light of the decisions of the judiciary.

Now, wherever these three institutions operate effectively, within that area and among and between the members of that community peace obtains. But when law, order and government are absent or break down, anarchy automatically occurs, and disorder and strife ensue. This pattern is invariable in human societies. Peace, in other words, is not a static concept which sovereign nations can secure by signing pacts or drafting treaties. On the contrary, it is the by-product of effective and stable government.

### *World Need for Government*

Within each of the three-score and more sovereign nation-states into which the human family is now divided, the principle by which the maintenance of the peace is obtained through the exercise of law and its appropriate institutions is widely recognised and understood. But for the world as a whole there are currently no such institutions. Nor is war, which is the inevitable result, seen to be the consequence of this fact.

There is no world peace to-day precisely because there is no world legislature to make the laws, no world judiciary to interpret them, and no world police to enforce the laws upon the individual law breaker. These essential institutions of global peace are urgently required.

The claim of each sovereign nation to be judge in its own end of the evil. The nation-states, though they have increasingly regulated and organised economic activity within their own boundaries, have followed narrowly conceived self-interest in international economic relations.

They pay lip service to the doctrine that prosperity is indivisible; but again and again the desire to introduce or retain within their boundaries some industry or activity which is valuable in war-time leads one or other of them to impede that free flow of trade without which a rapid improvement in standards of living is impossible.

Economic nationalism and the consequent devotion of a large proportion of the resources of every nation to preparation for war perpetuates poverty and stimulates that rivalry for control of essential supplies of raw materials which is one of the main causes of war.

### *Inadequacy of United Nations*

National sovereignty is actually enshrined in the very Charter of the United Nations. The UN, as at present constituted, is not a true government; it is merely a League of Sovereign States. The Assembly and the various agencies are places where diplomatic negotiation between the independent nations is habitually conducted.

Any pacts, treaties or agreements which may be concluded by the UN cannot therefore make peace, because national sovereignty is still retained. The nations of the UN may, of course, decide that it pays them to keep the terms of some agreements which they have recently concluded. Or they may differently interpret them.

But there is no force except war that can compel them to obey them. Sovereign nations, indeed, are willing to enter into all sorts of agreements provided there is no way of making sure that they observe them. In consequence war continues because enforceable law does not exist.

Many efforts have already been made to make the UN more effective. The Little Assembly and the Collective Measures Committee are examples of such innovations. But much more drastic alterations are required. It may well be found that the best method of securing a World Government lies through the development of the United Nations.

One of the weaknesses of all leagues, confederations of sovereign states, and alliances, is that they must exercise

their authority not upon people but upon nations. By definition, confederations and leagues have no authority over individuals. Their authority is exercised solely upon the nation-states which are members and all the rules and regulations which they make must be operated upon or through these states.

But a nation state cannot be arrested, cannot be tried and cannot be sentenced. Laws can be made effective and effectively enforced only if they are applicable directly upon the individual. The nation is far too large a unit to be amenable to legislation. The Nuremburg code, upon which some German war criminals were recently tried and sentenced, was a belated recognition of this fact. It is significant that this code has not yet been officially recognised by the UN. It still remains a sanction which only victors can impose on the vanquished.

### *The Political Problem*

How can the process of international integration be best achieved? It is unlikely that every nation in the world will simultaneously decide to set aside its sovereign status and join a Federal World State. The jigsaw puzzle may have to be fitted together section by section. Arguments are therefore often adduced for partial world federations such as a United Europe, or an Atlantic Community or a Free World Federation as possible first steps to the final goal of the World State. Any of these, if they were acceptable, might serve our purpose.

There is, however, one golden rule which ought to be applied. Whatever nations unite as the founder members of a World State, that State should be so constituted that any nation may, at any time it chooses, accede and thus become a member on exactly similar terms and conditions as apply to the founder members.

Furthermore, these terms of membership should be concisely written into the constitution of the federation. However few be the founder nations, the Union they create would then be a true nucleus for a deliberately projected World State.

It seems probable that the people of Europe would be wise to enter a world federation as a single homogeneous political entity. Whether Europe itself can be thus united prior to the day it enters the larger world federation is still an acutely controversial problem. But once a world federation is in

existence, European or other regional integrations will be far easier to achieve.

It is strongly arguable that any world federation set up must be given adequate powers and authority to raise revenue, not only to pay for the maintenance of the federal institutions and defence forces but also to enable an appropriate organ of the Government of the Federation to initiate and carry through schemes of economic development.

### *Is World Government Possible?*

It is often said that World Government, though obviously desirable, is Utopian because of the existing international disagreement in the world. Of course this is now true. But if nations were to admit that world federation is their goal, that would in itself lessen the tensions and thus prepare the way for the World State.

So long, however, as each nation is insistent on the retention of its national sovereignty, little progress can be made. Until we admit that our aim is the World State and are able to measure our tactics in foreign policy against this ultimate strategy we cannot expect the nations we fear to respect our intentions. How can we honestly claim to be a peace-loving nation while we insist on retaining national sovereignty, which involves the right to wage war?

### *Recent Changes*

The argument for the World Federal State has been a compelling one for centuries. The idea is not new. Why, then, should we be advocating it with such urgency to-day? Has something changed? Yes. In the last five or ten years something has happened which has at last made world government possible.

Government over any area, large or small, has always been impractical where adequate means of communication did not exist. Hitherto the world has lacked these means. But to-day, quite suddenly the teleprinter, the radio and the scheduled air services have supplied the machinery. Almost overnight the age-long dream of the idealists has been converted into practical politics. Those same scientists who with their inventions in atomic fission and bacteriology have made modern war so terrible, have also made it superfluous. The world is now governable; peace is at last possible. It is our task to create it.

## World Government :

# What Others Say

"On the whole question of disarmament the Government's purpose is simple, and our record clear. Genuine disarmament must be based on two simple but vital principles. It must be comprehensive and it must have a proper system of control. . . . The control must provide effective international—or, if we like, supranational—authority invested with real power. Members may say that this is elevating the United Nations, or whatever may be the authority, into something like world government; be it so, it is none the worse for that. In the long run it is the only way out for mankind."

March, 1955      MR. HAROLD MACMILLAN, *Minister of Defence*

"The creation of a co-operative all-powerful world order is the ultimate end towards which we must strive. Unless some effective world super-government can be set up and brought quickly into action, the prospects for peace and human progress are dark and doubtful."—SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL.

"Your movement has the task of creating an effective political organisation of the world. There is nothing more in keeping with the traditional doctrines of the Church or better adapted to her teaching on the rightful or the unjust war, especially in the present world situation. An organisation of this nature must, therefore, be set up, even if only to end the competitive rearming of nations, through which, for decades past, peoples have ruined themselves and exhausted themselves in complete waste."—POPE PIUS XII.

"The world has to make the choice between international anarchy or international law; but law will be flouted unless behind it there is authority strong enough to enforce it against aggressor nations. Christians of all Churches should support the conception of a world order and practical steps towards its realisation, for it is the Will of God that nations, as well as individuals, should live in fellowship as members of one family under His Fatherhood."

—ARCHBISHOP OF YORK

"If we hold fast to the concept and practice of unlimited sovereignty of nations, it only means that each country reserves the right for itself of pursuing its objective through warlike means. Under the circumstances, every nation must be prepared for that possibility; this means it must try with all its might to be superior to anyone else. This objective will dominate more and more our entire public life and will poison our youth long before the catastrophe is itself actually upon us. We must not tolerate this as long as we still retain a tiny bit of calm reasoning and human feeling."

—PROFESSOR A. EINSTEIN

"I have no doubt in my mind that World Government must and will come, for there is no other remedy for the world's sickness."

—PANDIT NEHRU



# GROWING OLD

by BARCLAY BARON

IT IS SOME YEARS NOW since we laymen began to hear of the aged—and became aware of statisticians warning us that the percentage of old people in the population was rising steadily year by year. At first, very likely, we shrugged our shoulders at a new notion of the scientists and were content to repeat the old gag about “lies, damned lies and statistics”, but gradually it has been borne in upon most of us that our world is up against a growing problem of old age. We see the evidence of it in the obituary column of our morning paper; many of us have personal experience of its difficulties in the ranks of our own family or friends. The old folks are no longer accepted as merely a picturesque feature in the background of our lives, but must be reckoned as people with their own rights and with needs which cannot be properly met without our study and active help.

Actually the societies and the agencies, both statutory and voluntary, which have the knowledge and the capacity to help old people are legion. So often the trouble is that their powers and even their existence are not known to the old people who would gladly help themselves or to us who want to help them. Some local authorities have issued a leaflet for the use of welfare workers in this field, but at least one of them has published a very complete little handbook on “national, local and voluntary assistance for elderly folk”. Moreover this is not only available for those who want to help but has been circulated to every “elderly person” (there are about 21,500 such) within the boundaries of the authority—the City of Salford. “Are you lonely? Are you in need? If so this booklet will help you”; that is the straight approach to the subject on the first page. All the resources are then set out in detail. First, the national services—National Insurance, the Assistance Board, the Health Service, Tobacco Duty Relief for Pensioners. And then the local services, which under the umbrella of the Health Department alone, include Home Help, Home Nursing, Health Visitors, Medical Advisory Centres and a laundry service. Other civic departments follow to deal with housing, the fuel ration, an information bureau,

the protection of property, funerals, meals at reduced prices and no less than twelve Homes for elderly persons, provided by the Civic Welfare Committee, with accommodation varying between eight men and 216 'mixed'.

After the national and municipal services come those provided by voluntary societies of all kinds and these take up more than half the booklet. The first is the City of Salford Companionship Circle for the Elderly, surely a good idea which might be adopted far and wide. It deals with neighbourly jobs as various as a corps of volunteers to visit the lonely, libraries, chiropody, holidays and a 'make-do and mend' service for old men who live by themselves. It is good to know that Toc H in Salford (not mentioned by name in this booklet) is "very actively associated" with the work of the Companionship. It would indeed be odd if it were otherwise.

After that there is a most encouraging list of no less than twenty-six Clubs for old folks, half of them run by W.V.S., the rest by the political parties, Rotary or the Churches. Then there are the special societies for cripples or the deaf, wireless for the bedridden, SSAFA for elderly ex-Servicemen in need, or the Red Cross for the sick and infirm, and eight local charities (dating from the seventeenth century onwards) which help the aged.

This twenty-page booklet never hides behind vague words like 'gerontology'; it gets down immediately to brass tacks in the simplest language—and every person who needs its services has been given a copy. Any Branch of Toc H which wants to do something more about its elderly neighbours would do well to write to Mr J. Roberts, Director of Civic Welfare, Broughton Road, Salford 6, Lancs, for a sight of it.

## THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT

On DECEMBER 10 & 11, 1955

*Wherever you are, you can join in*

### **"The Theme of the Vigil"**

*This Booklet is published by the Central Guard of the Lamp,  
Toc H, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W. 1.*

Price: 1s., 10s. a dozen, post free.

# FRONTIER BATTLE

by JOHN GOSS

"It is only on the frontiers of personal contact that this battle can ultimately be won."

OCCASIONALLY I am asked to talk to units about young people, and my talks often provoke criticism. But when my audience arraign modern youth for their many shortcomings, their alleged lack of moral standards, their false sense of values, their idleness, apathy and aimless sense of purpose, I usually retort that "a nation gets the youth it deserves". Since they often remain unconvinced it is encouraging to find support from a body of experts who pronounce that "The younger generation are the responsibility of their elders . . . . It is on the adult community that the responsibility for the well-being of young people depends."

Correspondence in *The Times* in 1951-52 posed many of the problems of modern youth to such effect that in 1953 the King George's Jubilee Trust appointed four working parties to study the influences "which bear on young people and which affect their development in body, mind and spirit". Their report\*, from which the pronouncement above is quoted, is a short but comprehensive survey which should be in the hands of all who profess an interest in youth. Few will disagree with their analysis of the existing situation, incomplete as it will seem to some, or with their conclusion that there is need "to arouse and energise the nation's concern for its young people". But if such a campaign is to be a crusade they might have been more forceful in their indictment of the self-sufficiency and material complacency of the generation to which we belong, and more challenging in their call for a spiritual awakening to responsible citizenship.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the study was that it did not fall into the common error of thinking only in terms of the fifteen to twenty age group, and one working party dealt exclusively with the period covering full-time attendance at school. Two parties considered the post-school period, one dealing with the influences of employment and one with the influence of leisure, while the remaining party devoted itself

\* *Citizens of Tomorrow*. A study of the influences affecting the upbringing of young people (Odham's Press Ltd. 3s. 6d.).

to the period in the Services. Each party worked independently and produced its own report, which gives added significance to the common ground which clearly emerges. All four reports emphasize the importance of the home and family background and all four agree on the need for a resurgence of Christian principles as the touchstone of human behaviour. In many respects the report might be regarded as a follow-up to *Something to Bite On*, and certainly no Toc H unit can afford to ignore it.

Much publicity has already been given to the report in the national Press and it is probably unnecessary to analyse the findings and recommendations here. It is hoped, however, that note will be taken of the fact that, as has happened so often before, the effectiveness of the recent Education Acts has been nullified by their having been implemented only in part. Once again the sorry catalogue is related of inadequate facilities, over-large classes, extraneous duties and lack of playing fields; of employers lacking in imagination and not co-operating in day release; of the statutory Youth Service crippled and restricted by lack of money. In short, of the needs of youth sacrificed for political and financial expediency. The report makes a number of excellent recommendations for dealing with the material problems and advises the setting up of a National Advisory Council operating at a high level of authority. Whether the latter would be any more effective than similar bodies in the past however, is open to question unless there is a radical change of heart on financial policy.

The report still leaves some questions unanswered in my mind. I would like to know how much real personal contact with young people the individual members of the working parties were able to make. I would like to know how recently any of them have been in the classroom, in the workshop, in the club, or on the playing field and really shared in the activities, thoughts, enthusiasms, aye, and in the dreams and yearnings of the people they are so anxious to help. I am often impatient of those in authority wanting to do good to the young. They are too often unconscious of the gap between youth and age—a gap more significant than that between fifteen and eighteen. And too, despite their somewhat patronising appreciation of the work of the voluntary organisations, I suspect that the authors of the report did not know so very much about that aspect of the work at first hand.

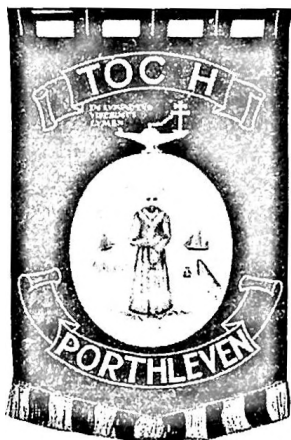
Material needs must be satisfied it is true. Education Acts must be more than pious hopes. But more and better control

by the professional expert is only part of the answer. The heart of the matter remains. The responsibility is on the individual to set the standards of personal behaviour in the home, in the school, in the factory and in the Services unit; and not to let the idealism and inherent sense of fairness of the young be broken on the wheel of materialism and expediency. This is where we came in—and it is where Toc H comes in. Not all of us have the rare privilege of sharing with youth the secrets of their hidden years. But those who have know that, despite *Blackboard Jungle* and *Journey into a Fog*, the most unlikely material will respond to high personal standards of Christian leadership. And it is only on the frontiers of personal contact that this battle can ultimately be won. Or, as the report on the influence of leisure concludes—"What sort of human beings are they going to be? The answer depends, simply, on the urgency and intimacy with which each adult accepts this as a personal responsibility."

## BRANCH BANNERS

### XVI PORTHLEVEN

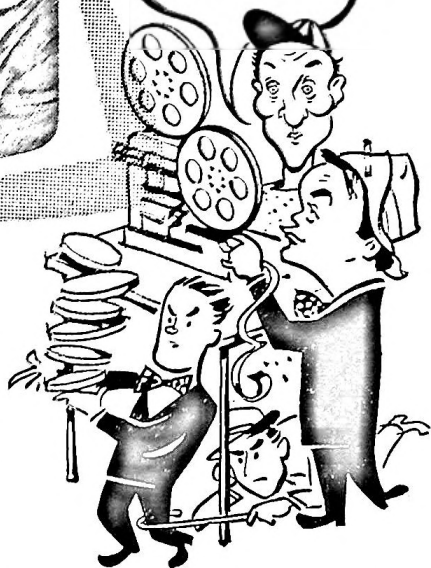
Contributed by H. B. SARGENT



Porthleven is a fishing village with a population of 1,600 in the S.W. of Cornwall, and a ward of the Borough of Helston, which was granted its Charter by King John in 1201. The picture on our banner is taken from the medallion on the chain of office worn by the mayoress, and shows St. Peter, the patron saint of fishermen, whose Festival has been celebrated in Porthleven for over 150 years. The painting and embroidery are the work of well-wishers and the backing, part of an old banner, was given us by the Helston Branch.



"There's  
something  
funny  
going on  
here!"



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something funny  
going on—just one of  
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# Silver Screen Service

by STAN WATERS

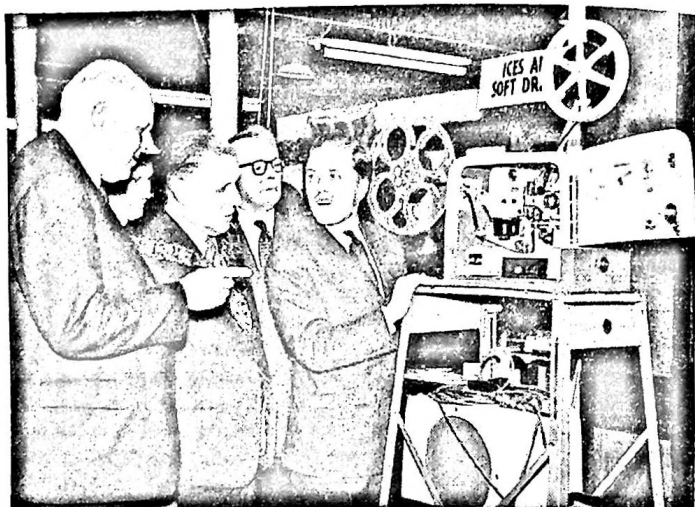
**O**DDLY ENOUGH, two outstanding forms of Toc H service today are both winter activities. The football commentaries on a 'closed' circuit to patients in hospital and the mobile film units, taking the 'flics' to old and young cut-off from the cinema, have captured people's imagination and won their support. (A recent collection at half-time on the Bristol Rovers ground towards the cost of providing the commentaries realised £218.) Just as the commentaries are for the most part limited to the football season, so the film units mainly operate during the long winter evenings when, night after night, small teams of members and friends set-up their silver screens in all sorts of out-of-the-way places.

Credit for thinking-up and putting into effect the idea for a Toc H mobile film unit goes to Victoria Branch, Belfast, where under the guidance of the late Joe Frame, the scheme has since reached very large proportions. A brief account of their experiences published in the JOURNAL led to action by members of Toc H in other parts of the world, notably in Australia and South Africa, and today there are many Toc H film units operating, both at home and overseas. The concentrated effort provides an attractive corporate job, while the maintenance of a rota of operators stresses the need to recruit younger men. The service can be started in a quite small way and is undoubtedly appreciated by those it sets out to benefit.

But, having made a start by securing a suitable projector there still remain other obstacles to be overcome. These include the provision of films, transport of the apparatus and the raising of cash to foot the cost. A wide range of up-to-date 16 mm. films can be readily obtained from the leading Film Companies, and although the hiring fees are not high, this is a constantly recurring expense. Many industrial undertakings offer 16 mm. sound films on free loan and it is made easy to supplement programmes with travel and educational films at the bare cost of their postage. As to transport, it is often possible to enlist the active help of owner-drivers.

although at least one unit has its own van, while another of necessity relies on a man-propelled push cart.

A real danger threatens the Branch that is unwise enough to run a film unit to the exclusion of all its other activities. Once having seen the need and decided that something



Alderman Cyril Black, M.P. for Wimbledon, points out the new projector of Wimbledon Toc H Cine Unit to Richard Attenborough and the Mayor, Alderman Alick Withall.

should be done to meet it, it is a good plan to administer the film unit through an 'outside' committee with strong Toc H representation. Joe Frame, in the JOURNAL, February, 1950, wrote:

"I feel that the time is now ripe to strike a note of warning for those who have embarked or who are about to embark on a similar venture, to consider very carefully whether or not it would be in the best interest of Toc H to make sure that the responsibility of running and equipping a Mobile Cinema Unit should be that of the community it serves."

A Branch accepting this sound advice will ensure that its roots spread deeper through the community and, at the same time, will also have avoided putting all its eggs into the one basket.



# MULTUM | MUCH IN PARVO | IN LITTLE

✽ The FORTIETH BIRTHDAY of Toc H: The World Chain of Light at 9 p.m. by local time on December 10 and 11. The Vigil from 9 p.m. G.M.T. on December 10 to 9 p.m. G.M.T. on December 11. Tubby's Seventieth Birthday and his Party on December 12. Tubby at home to all comers on December 14: at Talbot House, Tower Hill, at 7 p.m.; Home-going Prayers in All Hallows at 9 p.m.

✽ Many pages of members' signatures, with a great variety of adornments, have been contributed by Branches at home and overseas to the BIRTHDAY BOOKS which will be presented to TUBBY on December 12 with the united good wishes of the Family.

✽ At the time this appears in print, there *may* be a few copies left of the booklet, "THE THEME OF THE VIGIL", for use this month and after. Price: 10s. a dozen, post free.

✽ Mr. R. OLAF HAMBRO has been appointed a Vice-President of the Toc H Association.

✽ The Rev. OSWALD DICKENSON will relinquish his appointment as part-time Mark Padre in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on December 31. Our thanks and best wishes to him.

✽ BOB PURDY has returned from resettlement work in Malaya and will be rejoining the staff of Toc H early in the New Year.

✽ GEORGE LEE, accompanied by his bride, will be leaving for Melbourne, Australia, in February to become Area Secretary in Victoria.

✽ HON AREA CORRESPONDENTS: For Surrey: Fred E. J. Wilson, 3 Hawkhurst Way, New Malden. For Western London: Leslie H. Hare, 17 Cambridge Grove, W.6.

✽ Branches within fifty miles or so of any of the following places are asked to note that they will be invited to select two or three of their members to represent them at one of the series of POWER CONFERENCES in 1956: March 10-11, Chigwell, Essex. March 17-18, Reading, Berkshire. May 5-6, Overstrand, Norfolk. July 21-22, York. September 15-16, Bognor Regis, Sussex. September 22-23, Hoddesdon Herts. September 29-30, Bideford, Devon. October 13-14, Swanwick, Derbyshire. November 3-4, Gilsland, Cumberland. The full list for the year will be published in January.

# The Death Penalty

by FRANK JOWITT

The writer of this article is a Toc H member with thirty years' service as a Prison Officer and Clerk to Governors in H.M. Prisons.

EVER SINCE MAY 5, 1864, when Mr. Ewart in the House of Commons submitted a motion for the abolition of punishment of death, there has been considerable controversy on this subject. Capital punishment exists only for one purpose, to act as a deterrent to others. It does not serve, and has never served this purpose. Statistics prove that the rate of murder does not decrease in those countries which have the death penalty, and this is not softheaded sentimentality. Many prominent men of long experience as Prison Governors and Prison Chaplains have come out against capital punishment as an ineffectual means of curbing crime. The late Major Wallace Blake, ex-Governor of Pentonville Prison, in his book *Quod* stated that he felt like a murderer after an execution. Prison Chaplains have resigned rather than attend such horrible spectacles, and even executioners have committed suicide after carrying out executions. The late Mr. Ellis is an instance. He committed suicide shortly after he had carried out the execution of Mrs. Thompson. And what about the effect on the prison staff, many of whom are Christian men and women?

In my opinion, as long as we, the public, tolerate capital punishment, every citizen in this country is an accessory to murder whenever a human being is executed. *You cannot punish crime by imitating it.*

## Admission of failure

An important point to bear in mind is that capital punishment is Society's admission of failure to turn a murderer into a constructive and responsible citizen. Killing a criminal solves no problems, and only creates more resentment against society. Many a man, to my knowledge, condemned to death for murder and later reprieved, has since his release become a useful member of society.

In this matter we appear to be the most merciless of

Christian countries. Most countries in the world have abolished punishment by death and they still have law and order. Without doubt, capital punishment is a vestige of barbarism in civilization. It is inexcusable as a philosophy, futile as a practice. By making the State a murderer, we sanction the crime, while we execute the criminal. Happy indeed will be the parliament which can say it abolished capital punishment in order that it might teach the people that human life is sacred, and that on that principle alone can human life be secured.

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# Going back to School

by JIMMY NEILLY

**H**AVE YOU TRIED going back to school when in your mid-thirties? Not just to evening classes, but to full-day schooling? I have just commenced such an experience. Having been a teacher in a secondary modern boys' school since 1947 I have now elected to pursue a year's full time course at London University. Instead of teaching (or trying to) I am being taught.

It was a Toc H line of thought which first gave me a special interest in handicapped children, in this instance mentally handicapped. In the numerically swollen classes of the post-war junior schools, where teachers were sometimes faced with classes of over fifty children, the slower pupils were too often submerged, to appear later in the senior schools as backward cases. Here again, owing to the classes of forty or more, the backward pupil stood little chance of a fair crack of the whip. Or so I thought. It was this state of affairs which gave me the urge to do something about it. That 'something' took the form of specialising in work with backward pupils and now, after a three years' wait, I have been accepted for a course in the teaching of handicapped children, with special reference to educationally sub-normal ones.

I arrived at the university to enrol early in October. Crowded into the entrance hall there must have been nearly five hundred students, men and women drawn from many races. Looking back, I believe coloured students outnumbered the whites. Here was a woman, enveloped in white, with a

caste mark on her forehead. There was a very tall African, complete in tribal robes and wearing a bright yellow skull cap. Two Chinese were in conversation with what turned out to be a Korean Doc. Litt. There must have been nearly a thousand very mixed specimens in the lecture hall when later in the morning the Director greeted us.

### *Lectures*

The first week, one of lectures and seminars, was full of interest. It took a few days to gear oneself to taking down lecture notes, and especially was this so when we were subjected to sixty minutes worth of "Medical Aspects of Mental Health" from a quick-firing M.O.H. Many were the perplexed brows as technical terms followed one another in rapid succession! As lectures and seminars progressed one became aware that if new educational theories were being propounded, the fundamentals were still the same. "Remember you are dealing with *people*;"—"every child *must* be given the opportunity to share our own heritage".

It was quite an experience to sit down to lunch in the company of some six or seven hundred men and women of all ages and colours. From the refectory a dash was made back to the main assembly hall for a film show. There were two films 'The Terrible Twos and Trusting Threes', followed by "The Frustrating Fours and Fascinating Fives". Oh yes, nursery and infant school teaching and techniques come into the course.

Outside visits were made to nursery and infant schools, with many others to follow, including special schools for physically and mentally handicapped children. The last eight weeks of the course are devoted to supervised teaching in schools for E.S.N. children, at the conclusion of which comes the two-day examination.

### *Homework*

Most evenings are devoted to private study, writing of reports, lecture notes, etc., and this leaves very little time for one to devote to normal Toc H activities. I say normal because, of course, one lives Toc H day in and day out. It is a hurly-burly existence really in which one always feels that twenty-four hours is short measure for a day. One would like to participate in many of the university students club activities, but on a comprehensive course such as this it just is not possible. Occasionally I snatch an hour for a

cup of tea with some fellow students in a university hostel.  
the residents list of which is really cosmopolitan

It is a very interesting experience and one which I would not like to miss, even if one is for ever trying to catch up on oneself. Which reminds me, I must dash off to hear a demonstration of jungle drum transmission, to be given by a group of African students.

May I conclude with a very special plea? Mental handicap is no more of a stigma than physical handicap. One would not laugh at a blind person, or ridicule a cripple. Too often do we discover people who are impatient with a slow witted man, or find in a mongol or imbecile a figure of scorn. May we, who think fairly, remind them that mental handicap may occur just as easily in the child of the most brilliant professor as in one born of feeble minded parents.

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## DECEMBER

These verses, not printed before, were written some years ago by Robert Radcliffe, who joined the Elder Brethren on October 26. In 1932 he became the first Warden of Talbot House Club for Seafaring Boys at Southampton.

Who calls December drear has never been  
Into the fields when all the trees stand bare.  
Who calls December dull has never seen  
The countryside with eyes that really care.

How dark the new ploughed earth, how green the wheat  
Which townsmen think is always sown in spring!  
How brown the fallen leaves beneath one's feet!  
How blue the pigeons when they rise on wing!

He must be blind who thinks December grey.  
How red the berries on each hawthorn tree!  
It is a month as colourful as May  
To him who's blessed with eyes to love and see.

R.A.C.R.

# Oil is our way of life

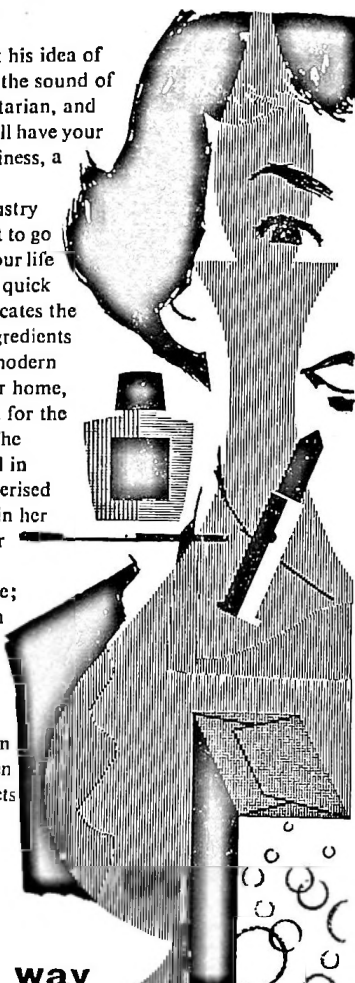
The Rev. Sydney Smith confessed that his idea of heaven was eating *pâté de foie gras* to the sound of trumpets. You yourself may be a vegetarian, and not like music with your meals. You will have your own conception of a pinnacle of happiness, a flashpoint of Better Living.

It is not for the modern Petroleum Industry to interrupt your dreams. Oil is content to go on multiplying the basic amenities of your life on this earth. It makes your transport quick and safe; it speeds the plough; it lubricates the machines of factories. Oil provides ingredients for new drugs, new materials for the modern synthetic fabrics. And oil helps in your home, too. It provides an essential ingredient for the washing powder that your wife uses. The linoleum on her kitchen floor, the fluid in which she preserves her eggs, her rubberised apron and gloves, the plastic curtains in her bathroom, even the nail-varnish on her dressing table... Petroleum chemicals have been at work in their manufacture; which probably accounts for their high quality and low price. The name of SHELL may not be on them, but Shell Research stands behind them. Petroleum in its crude form, dredged from the desert, marsh and jungle, is an unfriendly looking substance, dark, often sticky, sometimes smelly. But the products of its refinement oil the wheels of life: cleanly, smoothly and increasingly.



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# FAR CRY

## NOTES AND NEWS FROM DISTANT PARTS



*Contributed by* **GEOFF MARTIN**

### ACTIVE SERVICE IN SINGAPORE

**T**ALBOT HOUSE in Singapore is well known as a place where men in the Services can make themselves at home in a civilian atmosphere. For those on leave there are always beds: that is known and well appreciated. But the house is also the centre for the Branch, and from it some work of real significance is being done. It is an exciting story. A year or two ago a "shop house" was opened as a Medical Mission in Alexandra, a poverty-stricken Asian quarter of Singapore. The Tamil padre and his Chinese wife, who took up the work, met with derision and scorn, yet in the last two years they have built up a loyal congregation of nearly 150 Christians and have given medical treatment to over 8,000 of the very poorest mothers and children.

Now they have obtained a plot of ground from the housing authority and are proposing to build a larger medical mission, a Church, a school and a Christian community centre which will cost \$105,000. Toc H, in company with many local people, are throwing their whole weight into the effort, and Bob Preston and the padre are stumping the business houses to see what they can do to help. The Cathedral congregation is also up to the eyes in it. Writing on July 26, Bob gave us news of their progress:—

Apart from the wonderful work the Mission is doing, it is giving us a glorious opportunity of taking Toc H into the heart of the worker community of Singapore. We are already becoming known, by our efforts in the boys' club and by helping at fêtes and open air film shows and, by the time the new building is ready, I am hoping that Toc H will be more than a name to the Alexandra people. These are the people who really need Toc H, for it is on them, the working men and women of the city, that the full blast of political propaganda is being turned, and it is a vicious propaganda of selfishness and hate. They are a happy and friendly crowd, all races and communities living peacefully together, and I am sure that our teaching and way of life is much nearer their hearts than that of the politicians. I went along to an open air showing of religious films during the

general strike in June; every block of flats was displaying strike posters and slogans, but on the film ground we had a happy crowd of several hundreds, drawn from these same flats, as friendly as could be. They even applauded when an odd assortment of us sang into the microphone—perhaps it sounded like eastern music, but it certainly bore little resemblance to the tune we were supposed to be singing.

The fête last Saturday was another notable occasion. Nothing of this kind had ever been seen in the neighbourhood before. It started out as a jumble sale, but the local helpers became ambitious and it eventually developed into a full scale sale and fête. The little mission



Talbot House, Singapore

room was hopelessly small, but, luckily, it is the end building in a cul de sac, so we fenced off the entire stretch of roadway and roofed it with tarpaulins. The fences were draped with an odd assortment of hangings, including the Padre's bed-spreads and the Toc H billiard table cover, and the whole set-up looked like a bedouin encampment or the tabernacle in the wilderness. We opened the gate at half past one and, believe me, the opening day of a summer sale back home was peaceful by comparison. In two minutes the whole area was a seething mass of humanity, chattering away in half a dozen different languages and all bargain hunting. The stalls were soon emptied and they turned to the refreshment corner where we had Chinese, Indian, Malaya, as well as European food. I was amused to see one sedate old Chinese woman proudly clutching her bargain—some memsahib's discarded cocktail hat—just a couple of feathers and a wisp of net. We set up our side-shows and they all had a try at skittles, darts and hoop-la. By six o'clock it was all sold out and we helpers were worn out, but there was another \$700 in the kitty. Next time we run a sale there, we shall need the riot squad to deal with the crowds . . . . .



One big store gave us a box full of cosmetic samples and among them were a few sample tins of Ronuk Lavender Furniture Polish. Three Chinese girls examined the tins, admired the colour and the scent, and offered the purchase price. The good lady on the stall was horrified and tried hard, in mime, to explain that the cream was for polishing furniture, but the girls were insistent and won the day. Presumably there are now three little Chinese poppies proudly walking around Singapore with shining Ronuk polished complexions. . . .

When I returned to Malaya last year Bob Purdy said to me, "The communists are winning Chinese youth because they offer them something more real and definite to live for than we do. The only better thing we can give them is Christianity". That is just what Our Saviour's Mission is doing.

## THEY JUST MEET TO SING

There must be a lot of people in Waimate, New Zealand, who enjoy singing for its own sake, for during the winter months fifty or sixty of them get together frequently and regularly for this very purpose. They have been doing so for five years, ever since the Waimate Branch started the idea. They call them community "sings". It was a bold venture, because there is no lack of entertainment in the place, but it came off. All they had in mind was to offer some enjoyable entertainment, to help various good causes by giving them the collections, and simply to encourage friendliness among people who lacked friends. At each meeting the amount of the collection, and the name of the organisation to get it, is announced from the platform: this is a rule strictly adhered to. One of the members, Jack Smith, is the regular song leader, and in general the programme is arranged to encourage the young artists and the "up and (possibly) comings". The Branch has just bought a projector to flash the words on the screen. There is usually a profit of from £5 to £10 to be handed to the selected charity.

## WHAT ABOUT CHACACHACARE?

L. C. Burnham, a London member, and, for many years, a B.E.L.R.A. worker, went to Trinidad last summer. In spite of his experience in Nigeria, he was very shaken when he saw the results of leprosy among the people there. He says he badly needs illustrated magazines and books of the Westerns type; could we drop a hint in the JOURNAL? Readers are invited to respond direct to: Chacachacare Leprosarium, Trinidad, British West Indies.

# *The Elder Brethren*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them*

CLOSE.—Suddenly on October 19, EUAN G. CLOSE, aged 50, a member of St. Austell Branch. Elected 31.12.'22.

CRATHORNE.—On October 15, after a short illness, the Rev. JOSIAH THOMAS CRATHORNE, aged 65, a founder member and Padre of Low Hill Branch. Elected 11.5.'32.

HERMON.—On October 25, WALTER EVELYN HERMON, aged 54, a member of Wokingham Branch. Elected 16.3.'54.

HOWARD.—On October 16, the Rev. Prebendary PERCIVAL HOWARD, aged 80, a member of the West Midlands Area General Members Branch. Elected 4.11.'47.

IMPETT.—On September 6, HAROLD VICTOR IMPETT ('Jerry'), aged 66, a founder member of Whitstable Branch. Elected 1.12.'23.

JACKSON.—On October 7, ELUAH FRANCIS WILLIAM JACKSON, aged 54, Jobmaster of Bridlington Branch. Elected 29.6.'51.

JACKSON.—On October 12, FRANK HERBERT JACKSON, aged 51, a member of R.H.H.I. Branch. Elected 26.10.'47.

JONES.—On October 6, after many years of suffering, LESLIE STEPHEN JONES, aged 55, a founder member of Gravesend Branch. Elected 12.3.'32.

LAVENDER.—On October 14, ERIC DUDLEY LAVENDER, aged 57, a member of Pill Branch. Elected 20.8.'26.

LEAKE.—On September 16, FRANK LEAKE, aged 41, a member of Eston Branch. Elected 21.1.'47.

MILLETT.—On October 12, CHARLES REGINALD MILLETT, aged 63, a member of Kidderminster Branch. Elected 14.4.'28.

OAKESHOTT.—On October 30, the Rev. GEOFFREY MORRIS OAKESHOTT, a member of the Central General Members Branch. Elected 1.8.'23.

RADCLIFFE.—On October 26, Lt.-Col. ROBERT ALFORD CUTHBERT RADCLIFFE, aged 57, first Warden of Talbot House Club for Seafaring Boys, Southampton, in 1932. Elected 10.10.'29.

ROBERTS.—On September 16, DAVID EVAN ROBERTS, aged 39, a member of Pwllheli Branch. Elected 27.4.'40.

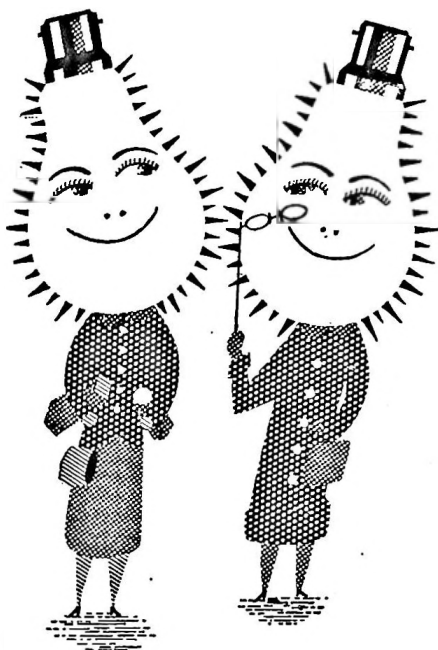
SMITH.—On June 28, EMANUEL OLA SMITH, aged 38, a member of Lagos Branch. Elected 27.9.'51.

SMITH.—Suddenly, on October 27, JOHN SMITH, aged 46, a founder member of Bozeat Branch. Elected 3.3.'38.

THRING.—On September 26, WILLIAM DICKENSON THRING ('Dixie'), aged 65, a member of Cleethorpes Branch. Elected 13.6.'32.

TOLLEY.—On October 5, HAROLD TOLLEY, aged 78, a member of Wilton Branch. Elected 10.8.'48.

Grannie says, "Good light's so cheery,  
Do get Osram always, dearie!"



**Osram**

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# TOC H YOUTH

by STEVE REGIS

The writer, a pupil at Wellingborough Grammar School, here tells of a year's activities which last month led to the granting of Toc H group status to the School unit — a happy exception to the general rule.

**I**T ALL STARTED last September, when eight boys held a meeting in a schoolroom to discuss the possibilities of forming a Toc H Branch. They held their first real meeting in December, when the Editor of the JOURNAL, F. G. Chesworth, came and talked with them on the work of the Movement. Since then, A. S. Greenacre, the Southern Area Secretary, and Colin Stevenson, East Midlands Area Secretary, have both spoken to the boys and last month they were presented with their Rushlight. Although they have received this recognition in so short a time, the pioneers found it no easy matter.

Many difficulties stood in the way—one of the chief feared of which was that of finding a representative cross-section of the community. At a grammar school, one would suppose, all the boys are of roughly the same intelligence and come from the same walks of life. Far from it! Perhaps it is not as varied as in some adult Branches, but the membership of this unit certainly has some contrasts!

With the main difficulties overcome, many school organisers would have probably stopped short and been content to affiliate to a larger adult Branch. Not these boys! They wanted to become a group by themselves or they would feel nothing—"we'll be independent and show it" was the general attitude.

So much, then, for the organisation. But what about the psychological point of view—the friendliness, that 'feeling' about Toc H that only members themselves can appreciate—how was that going?

For a long while the deep, true friendship just would not come—although school friendship was there all right—but, when the pioneers began to despair of there every being any, it gradually began to seep through. Not in great deeds, for history is not built out of solitary greatness, but in little acts that, perhaps, don't move the world but which, nevertheless, make a lot of difference to the people concerned.

At first, boys were a little wary of joining this new 'thing', but, little by little, the membership grew and soon it was realised that officers would be needed. At a special meeting it was finally decided that the unit would be entirely organised by the boys—with no help from masters—and so a job-master, secretary, and all the other essentials of a committee were elected. Perhaps, to people who have sat on other committees, this conjures up visions of people sitting around saying "I'm treasurer," but doing nothing. This was different. If a boy was elected treasurer, he had to work—hard! And the same went for the other positions.

The meetings are run on the lines of a normal Branch meeting (if there is such a thing!) and take place once a week except during examination time. Membership is limited to fifth and sixth formers only, and, although perhaps slowly, all the boys are learning to live by the four points of the Toc H compass.



Members of Sudbury (Suffolk) Branch mending toys, given in response to an appeal in the local press, for distribution to needy children at Christmas.

## LINKS WITH BORSTAL

"My predecessor had recruited a new team of Toc H and other voluntary visitors last year. This year, they have gained experience and proved their worth and sincerity of purpose on innumerable occasions. Their material is the most difficult of the Borstal population—failures of all other Institutions. Yet by patient understanding and commonsense both of personal integrity and experience, they have made a valuable contribution to the lives of each lad who has come within the sphere of their influence. Their friendship takes a practical form, and many of the lads released from here remain in close appreciative touch, and visit their homes on Service Leave.

One lad transferred to a Sidcup hospital was visited each week for several months from Reading by two Toc H gentlemen, until he was eventually released to the Central After-Care Association."

"Members of Weymouth Toc H continue to visit regularly, and selected lads attend meetings in Weymouth. In the autumn a further activity sponsored by Toc H was begun. Four Toc H members and a number of lads meet for an hour and a half each Tuesday evening, and together make toys. It is intended that the toys will be sent to needy children in the Home towns of the lads who make them."

*Extracts from the Report for 1954 of the Commissioners of Prisons.*



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# OPEN HUSTINGS

*The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H. For reasons of space the right is reserved to shorten letters submitted, and every effort is made to print a representative selection from those received.*

## Stimulus required

MY Branch recently spent an evening discussing the JOURNAL and "praising it with faint damns". We felt that our own and many other Branches shirked discussing the most controversial social, political and religious problems, and that the JOURNAL apparently shirked them too. We therefore suggest that the JOURNAL publishes some objective articles on such problems as homosexuality, the H-bomb, communism, the re-union of the Churches, fundamentalism, etc., etc., giving the pros and cons of the different questions involved. Such articles would be a valuable stimulus to Branch discussion.

WILL BIRD.

*Tunbridge Wells Branch.*

*[The above letter is referred to in the leading article.—ED.]*

## "Adventure at Caux"

WE were very interested to read in the October JOURNAL Sir Colin Jardine's colourful description of his visit to the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament in Caux, Switzerland. Whilst Sir Colin says in his articles that he finds M.R.A. difficult to define, we would like to outline the simple things that it stands for in our own lives.

Firstly M.R.A. means that we decide to live by four absolute moral standards; honesty, purity, love, and unselfishness. Secondly

that we live by the guidance of God. In this Mark both of us get up early in the morning to take time to listen to God. We write down the thoughts that come, and share them with each other. This daily discipline is essential if we are to be united in our work here, and have the caring for people that is fundamental to life in a Toc H Mark.

M.R.A. has taught us that the state of the world depends on the way we live. When we change and accept absolute moral standards for our lives, a new order is created. The miracle of the Caux Assemblies is that here it is happening on a sufficient scale to change the course of world history.

ROBERT W. SCARTH,  
*Honorary Warden.*

PATRICK W. PROCTER,  
*Honorary Deputy Warden.*

*Toc H Mark IV, Manchester.*

## Question and Answer

IN the Report of the Scottish Council Meeting (September JOURNAL), we noticed that the delegates discussed among other questions, "Do Christians make the best Toc H members?"

This question has been raised twice at our Branch by visitors, and now that we see it is of sufficient importance to somebody that even Council delegates are on the job, we would like to know who the somebody is, and why he wants to know.

We think it is safe to assume that by far the majority of Toc H members call themselves Christians, so it is a fairly foregone conclusion that the answer will be in the affirmative. Does this make them feel any happier, or is it designed to make non-Christians feel inferior, or what?

The majority of the Branch feel the delegates could have been more usefully employed by discussing something like "Cannot Toc H speak with one voice" bearing in mind that members are called upon to "influence the formation of public opinion".

May we ask by what standards are members judged to be Christians or non-Christians and who is worthy to be the Judge?

E. C. SMITH, *Chairman.*

*Hemel Hempstead Branch.*

### Learning from history

WHO wants to learn from history? Too often so depressing, and such mistakes. What is history? What happened yesterday, or how far back? Anyway, "The Hungry Sheep" by Sir David Kelly\* is of supreme importance to Toc H.

FOUNDATION MEMBER, 1916.

*Yarmouth,*

*Isle of Wight.*

(\*Published by Hollis & Carter Ltd. 18s. 0d.).

### Photography

THE Toc H Postal Photographic Club is in need of new members to enable it to restart after a long lapse. Briefly, the idea of the club is to enable members to maintain an interest in their hobby, to benefit from the advice of others and above all strengthen the fellowship and bond of Toc H through the medium of a mutual interest.

The portfolio is posted from member to member, each one including a fresh print and

attempting to offer some constructive criticism or approval on the other prints before posting to the next address. In this way the Portfolio circulates once every ten to twelve weeks.

If any one interested will write to me I shall be glad to forward full details.

KEITH WALKER.

*54 Palace Gates Road,*

*Wood Green, London, N.22.*

### Old Diaries

I HAVE found the Toc H Notes at the beginning of the Diary excellent to give to people who enquire about Toc H, to supplement what I tell them about it. These notes can be readily detached from the old diary at the end of the year and other members may be interested in this suggestion.

M. R. LOEWY

*Coventry, Warwickshire*

### 'Monsieur le Majeur'

DEAR BARKIS,

THANK YOU so very much for the Toc H JOURNAL, with photographs and your own delightful article.

May I say one again how very touched and proud we were at the Poperinge proceedings; and especially at your own kind and moving words and thoughts throughout. I find it most warming that Paul's name is now enshrined for ever in the Old House; it would have been the memorial he himself would have chosen. I know you have been the prime-mover in the preparation of the beautifully-worded plaque; would you, please, tell others who may have been concerned how grateful we of Paul's family are toward Toc H for the wonderful tribute to his memory?

PHILIP SLESSOR.

*London, S.W.5.*



